E/ECE/TRADE/WP.4/INF.11
TD/B/ASTD/INF.11
25 January 1972

Original : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Committee on the Development of Trade

Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Trade and Development Board

Advisory Services on Trade Documentation

TRADE DOCUMENTATION INFORMATION

NEW ECAFE SUB-COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC

(Note by the ECAFE secretariat)

1. In view of the increasing importance of international travel, transport and trade, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) at its twenty-seventh session decided to pursue a proposal to establish, under its Transport and Communications Committee, a sub-committee on tourism and facilitation of international traffic. By this decision, the work on facilitation of international traffic, hitherto carried out as an ad hoc project, can be pursued on a more permanent basis.

2. During its twentieth session, 10-17 January 1972, the ECAFE Transport and Communications Committee adopted terms of reference for the new sub-committee to be transmitted to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session for its consideration and approval.

3. The terms of reference contain general provisions that the Sub-committee shall consider all matters essentially concerning tourism and facilitation of international traffic which the Transport and Communications Committee will refer to it, which it thinks necessary to deal with, or which the governments may request.

4. Particular items specify tasks aiming at promotion of tourism, developing and strengthening infrastructural tourism facilities and institutions, and implementation of relevant recommendations concerning passports, visa and other travel control documents, health regulations and animal and plant quarantine relating to international travel.

5. As regards international traffic the terms of reference indicate that the Sub-committee should:

(a) assist and advise governments on their participation in all the existing and future relevant international agreements and conventions concerning facilitation of international traffic in all its aspects by all modes of transport and, on the establishment of the institutional machinery that may be needed for implementation;

(b) assist and advise in formulating, if necessary, regional or sub-regional agreements, arrangements and recommended practices for facilitation of international traffic;

(c) assist and advise in participating in any schemes which might be drawn up on a regional basis for insurance of vehicles and in the implementation of relevant legislation concerning third party risks and other liabilities;

(d) assist and advise in establishing appropriate national institutions for facilitation of international traffic by all modes of transport, individually and in inter-model consultation; and

(e) assist and advise in implementing recommendations which might be formulated for the simplification and standardization of documentation of transport and travel taking into account documentation for trade.

6. The Sub-committee is authorized to submit to governments recommendations of a technical nature, not affecting any other aspects covered by other subsidiary bodies of the Committee or the Commission, unless instructions to the contrary are given in particular cases. The Sub-committee will meet normally once in two years and will report to the Committee on its work, including proposals for future programme of work, recommendations for convening working parties and requests to the Executive Secretary to make studies of specific problems pertaining to tourism and facilitation of international traffic by all modes of transport.

7. The Committee endorsed the need for convening - at an appropriate time - a Working Party on Simplification and Standardization of Documentation.